

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] 1. An arc tube for a high intensity discharge lamp comprising:
a translucent body formed from a high temperature material and defining a discharge space and including spaced-apart electrodes;
an arc generating and sustaining medium within said discharge space;
and
a starting aid contained within said discharge space, said starting aid comprising an electrically conductive stripe formed from a mixture of an electrically conductive material and the high temperature material.

[Claim 2] 2. The arc tube of Claim 1 wherein the high temperature material is alumina and said starting aid is comprised of a cermet selected from the group consisting of tungsten and alumina and molybdenum and alumina.

[Claim 3] 3. The arc tube of Claim 1 wherein said translucent body is cylindrical.

[Claim 4] 4. The arc tube of Claim 1 wherein said ceramic material is alumina.

[Claim 5] 5. The arc tube of Claim 2 wherein said starting aid is a cermet of tungsten and alumina and contains about 60 volume % tungsten and about 40 volume % alumina.

[Claim 6] 6. An arc tube for a high intensity discharge lamp comprising:
a translucent body formed from a high temperature material and defining a discharge space and including spaced-apart electrodes;
an arc generating and sustaining medium within said discharge space;
and

a starting aid contained within said discharge space, said starting aid comprising an electrically conductive stripe of a cermet selected from the group consisting of tungsten and alumina and molybdenum and alumina.

[Claim 7] 7. The arc tube of Claim 6 wherein said starting aid is a cermet of tungsten and alumina and contains about 60 volume % tungsten and about 40 volume % alumina.